



## CHENNAI SPEAKERS FORUM

Area: A3

Division: A

District: 120

### MINUTES OF MEETING

Meeting No.: 403      Date: 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2020      Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Venue: Online Zoom Meeting

Website: [www.chennaispeakersforum.com](http://www.chennaispeakersforum.com)

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Word of the day: Carte Blanche

Theme of the day: Freedom is my right.



10:01am: SAA called for meeting

SAA Toastmaster **Mukund** explained the mission of Toastmasters and stated the code of conduct for the meeting.



10:02am: Presiding Officer's Address

Toastmaster **Abhisek**, the Presiding Officer, opened the 403<sup>th</sup> meeting by raising a rhetoric question i.e. if we do enjoy freedom of speech and thoughts in today's democratic world. He explained how there are restrictions on the same and although he is no freedom fighter, he will ensure that his friends have freedom of speech and thoughts. This was followed by introduction of guests to the meeting.



10:12am: TMOD introduction

TMOD Toastmaster **Madhavan** explained that freedom is not merely the right to do as we please but to do what is right. He also said that we need to use our freedom to be the voice of the voiceless, the minorities and the depressed.



10:15am: General Evaluator intro

General Evaluator Toastmaster **Harihara Sudan** explained that in India family forces their choice on children, despite freedom being our right. He later explained the importance of evaluation and introduced the TAG team.

TIMER  
AH COUNTER  
GRAMMARIAN

Toastmaster Ranjan  
Toastmaster Athilaesh  
Toastmaster Srinath



### 10:24am: Educational session - "The Art of Evaluations"

**DTM Gautam Sharma**, the guest speaker for the meeting started the educational session by asking the audience to list out what they love about evaluation and the challenges they face during evaluation. He explained that evaluation is so important that it can make or break a speaker's journey in Toastmasters since a demotivating evaluation can hurt a sensitive speaker. He gave the audience key pointers such as: to develop your own writing style, allot 5 minutes to structure the evaluation, balance recommendations between "parameter based recommendations" and "logic based recommendations". He said the three golden questions that a recommendation should address is, "what has to be improved", "why" and "how". He explained how a well worded conclusion is important and even explained to the audience "things to avoid" while giving an evaluation. The session was concluded with a Q&A session.



### 10:54am: Prepared Speeches

Prepared Speech	Speaker	Path and Project	Speech title	Evaluator
1	Toastmaster Abilash Chandran	Path: Motivational Strategies (Level - 2) Project#1: Understanding Your Communication Style	Birds of different feathers	Toastmaster Sidharth

**Toastmaster Abilash Chandran** started off his speech by describing a scene in which during an idyllic flight across the North Atlantic, a crisis occurred with fuel leakage in one of the engines of the flight. This was dismissed by the pilot-in-command as a technological glitch and he asked the audience what communication style they would adopt if they were the co-pilot to convince the pilot-in-command to change course. He explained the various communication styles categorized by Joe Sharren, an expert in communication style, into 4 birds being:

- Eagle - A person who comes across as a bossy person, requires only a bird's eye view to make decisions and not a team player.
- Peacock - A person who is the eye of any party, who aim to have a good impression amongst their friends and generate positivity.
- Dove - A person who is calm, quiet, good listener, best team player but needs to be pushed into a certain direction.
- Owl - A person who likes a routine job, constantly looks for data and good at highlighting risks.

He concluded by explaining that we need to identify the type of person we are communicating with and share the information accordingly which was successfully done by the co-pilot.

Prepared Speech	Speaker	Path and Project	Speech title	Evaluator
2	Toastmaster Prashanth	Path: Strategic relationships (Level - 2) Project #2: Cross cultural Understanding	Rice, Chapathi, Burger	Toastmaster Shriram Sridhar

**Toastmaster Prashanth** through his speech explained how he takes time to get comfortable around people from different cultures due to the cultural differences. He said how his friend from the US found Indian culture sometimes annoying, sometimes amusing, and sometimes downright frustrating. Every day that he wore Vibuthi on his forehead, he and his friend conversed about the different types of God he worshipped which left his friend flabbergasted about the number of Gods Indians worshipped. He explained another incident with his friend who had trouble when eating rasam rice on a banana leaf which resulted in rasam spilling over him. He concluded by saying that his friend eventually adopted to the Indian culture and that when we come across a new culture, we may get annoyed at first but over a period of time, we may end embracing some aspects of the new culture.

Prepared Speech	Speaker	Path and Project	Speech title	Evaluator
3	Toastmaster Vandana Raj	Path: Strategic Relationships (Level - 2) Project #3: Mentoring	Hello World	Toastmaster Vivekanandan B

**Toastmaster Vandana Raj** started off her speech by explaining the very first programming code she had to write as a part of her engineering course which would display "Hello World" on the screen. She was curious to know why the words "Hello World" was chosen. Her professor explained that the code was her creation which she would be introducing to the entire world with a Hello. She explained the mentor-mentee relationship as a mutual, two way relationship where the mentee develops self confidence and a particular skill and the mentor learns new perspectives. She spoke about her mentors and their impact on her including Toastmaster Madhavan, who was her school teacher and DTM Saro Velrajan. She also explained the difference between a coach and a mentor, where a coach merely trains you on a particular skill, whereas with a mentor, the focus is on overall growth. She concluded by saying that it is the mentor who introduces the world to the mentee.

Prepared Speech	Speaker	Path and Project	Speech title	Evaluator
4	Toastmaster Vigneshwaran G	Path: Motivational Strategies (Level- 3) Project #2: Deliver Social Speeches	Our Guardian Angel	Toastmaster Sailesh Srivatsan (Visiting Toastmaster from Chennai Communicators Club)

**Toastmaster Vigneshwaran G** started his speech by narrating an unforgettable incident when his bike broke down in the middle of nowhere, during a return bike trip from Ladakh with his friend. They were stuck in the middle of snow capped mountains with no humans in sight where no network connectivity was available. They moved forward by pushing the bike when they reached the tent post of the Border

Roads Organisation. They acted like his Guardian Angel by voluntary pinching in and helped repair his bike. He spoke about BRO and its various great feats including the Atal Tunnel which was built under the Rohtang pass by digging through 50 feet of snow. He said that this tunnel will boost the tourism and will connect Manali and Leh. He showed some creative signboards displayed by BRO and concluded that he wanted to raise a toast to BRO during the Independence Day themed meeting.



### 11:24am: Table topics Session

Table Topics Master **Toastmaster Komal** called members and guests for impromptu speaking.

Sr no.	Name	Topic
1.	Toastmaster Shrikhar	Wear the mask of happiness
2.	Toastmaster Krishnamoorthy	Giving is freedom
3.	Guest Panimalar	We are our own hero
4.	Toastmaster Pravin Kothari	No freedom! I am working this weekend
5.	Toastmaster Karthick	This connect to connect !!
6.	Toastmaster Farhan	I tried to contain myself but I escaped
7.	Toastmaster Dhanalakshmi	Don't say I wish, say I will
8.	Toastmaster Shreyash	Find reasons to smile



### 11:42am: Evaluation Session

Speaker	Path and Project	Evaluator
Toastmaster Abilash Chandran	Path: Motivational Strategies (Level - 2) Project#1: Understanding Your Communication Style	Toastmaster Sidharth

**Appreciation from Evaluator:** New approach towards depicting different communication techniques; Proficient speech

**Feedback from Evaluator:** To work on vocal variety and a better conclusion.

Speaker	Path and Project	Evaluator
Toastmaster Prashanth	Path: Strategic relationships (Level - 2) Project #2: Cross cultural Understanding	Toastmaster Shriram Sridhar

**Appreciation from Evaluator:** Humour elements, gestures and body language was good

**Feedback from Evaluator:** Conclusion could have been stronger and tied back to the introduction

Speaker	Path and Project	Evaluator
Toastmaster Vandana Raj	Path: Strategic Relationships (Level - 2) Project #3: Mentoring	Toastmaster Vivekanandan B

**Appreciation from Evaluator:** Speech organization was sincere and speech was engaging.

**Feedback from Evaluator:** To work on vocal variety and better conclusion

Speaker	Path and Project	Evaluator
Toastmaster Vigneshwaran G	Path: Motivational Strategies (Level-3) Project #2: Deliver Social Speeches	Toastmaster Sailesh Srivatsan (Visiting Toastmaster from Chennai Communicators Club)

**Appreciation from Evaluator:** Well organized and structured speech; Speech was perfectly delivered.

**Feedback from Evaluator:** To work on expressing emotions through facial expressions and voice modulation



**12:05p.m - Call for vote**

Members and guests were asked to vote for Best Speaker, Best TT Speaker, Best Budding TT Speaker, Best Evaluator, Best Role Player, and Best TAG Role Player



12:06p.m - Best Performers

Presiding Officer announces best performers of the meeting:

<b>Best Role Player</b>	Toastmaster Komal Gupta
<b>Best Evaluator</b>	Toastmaster Shiriram Sridhar
<b>Best Table Topics Speaker</b>	Toastmaster Farhan Ahmed
<b>Best Speaker</b>	Toastmaster Vandana Raj
<b>Best Tag Role Player</b>	Toastmaster Srinath

The Presiding Officer received feedback from guests.



For any suggestions/feedback, please contact:

Shakthi Priya. B

Secretary

Chennai Speakers Forum



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